

A vibrant, artistic illustration of outer space. On the left, a large portion of Earth is visible, showing blue oceans and white clouds. Below it, a bright orange sun is partially obscured by a glowing, swirling nebula in shades of yellow and orange. In the center, the Moon is shown in a dark, cratered state. To the right of the Moon is the reddish-brown planet Mars. In the bottom right corner, the large, striped planet Jupiter is prominently displayed. A small satellite is visible in the upper left, and a comet with a long tail streaks across the upper right. The background is a deep blue space filled with stars and distant galaxies.

# Education and Public Outreach Committee of the NASA Advisory Council

Chair: Mr. Miles O'Brien

April 28, 2009

# Education and Public Outreach Committee: Issue 1



## Public engagement not a “Mission Requirement”

NASA is an organization of engineers and scientists who do not necessarily understand the importance of public outreach. Public Affairs continues to fight a needless battle to include public access and interaction as a requirement for every NASA mission. Engineers have always resisted including cameras and crew time as a priority mission requirement – as both require the expenditure of scarce resources.

# Education and Public Outreach Committee: Recommendation 1



The Council recommends that representatives of the Communications and Education Offices be included in reviews during all phases of development to ensure that missions serve NASA's educational and public outreach goals.

## **Rationale:**

**Public access to missions should always be a priority requirement that is built into the design of any mission.**

## Education and Public Outreach Committee: Issue 2



### No Budget for HQ Public Affairs

The Public Affairs budget in Washington has been zeroed out for several years forcing the department to operate on non-appropriated money.

# Education and Public Outreach Committee: Recommendation 2



The Council recommends that the NASA Office of Communications (formerly Office of Public Affairs) be funded at a level proportionate and appropriate to its mission, goals and objectives in engaging the public.